Message Text

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R 232158Z APR 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EXTENSION OF BILATERAL CIVAIR AGREEMENT

REF: A) PRAGUE 828; B) STATE 41900

1. AS RESULT NO DOUBT OF IMPASSE AT CONCLUSION FIRST ROUND INTER-CARRIER TALKS, PAN AM HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO PRESS CZECHS FOR INCLUSION OF AMENDMENTS IN EXTENDED CIVAIR AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH WHAT PAN AM HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE ACHIEVE IN ITS TALKS WITH CSA. OBVIOUSLY, WE WISH TO SUPPORT PAN AM'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN BALANCE OF BENEFITS MORE IN PAN AM'S FAVOR, BUT CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED AT AIRLINE LEVEL. WHETHER OR NOT PAN AM IS EVENTUALLY MORE SUCCESSFUL IN NEXT ROUND WITH CSA, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE EXTENDED IN ITS PRESENT FORM FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR. THIS WILL IN ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKELIHOOD BE US PROPOSAL TO CZECHS FOLLOWING SECOND

ROUND OF CARRIER TALKS. WE HAVE INFORMED PAN AM TO THIS EFFECT.

- 2. TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON CZECHS IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY MAY AT ITS DISCRETION USE APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO REIT-ERATE POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 2, REF B AND TO EXPRESS USG DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS FIRST ROUND PAN AM-CSA TALKS AND HOPE THAT NEXT ROUND WILL BE MORE FRUITFUL. EMBASSY MIGHT ALSO REMIND CZECHS THAT USG WILL MAKE DECISION REGARDING EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOLLOWING THIS NEXT ROUND OF TALKS.
- 3. FYI: A POSSIBLE DELAY IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT EXTENDING CIVAIR ARRANGEMENTS BEYOND MAY 31 DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN IMMEDIATE CUT-OFF OF CSA'S US SERVICES. IN GENERAL, FOREIGN CARRIERS OPERATE TO US ON BASIS OF CAB PERMIT ISSUED UNDER SECTION 402 OF FEDERAL AVIATION ACT; OR IF SUCH PERMIT HAS EXPIRED (WHICH WILL BE CASE WITH PRESENT CSA PERMIT WHICH EXPIRES WITH AGREEMENT ON MAY 31), ON BASIS OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PERMIT UNTIL THE CAB ACTS ON RENEWAL APPLICATION. CSA US REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD US THAT CSA WILL SUBMIT APPLICATION TO CAB BEFORE MAY 31. IN THE EVENT THE PRESENT AGREEMENT CANNOT BE CONCLUDED BEFORE MAY 31, WE WILL COORDINATE WITH CAB TO ASSURE THERE WILL BE NO ABRUPT CUT-OFF OF CSA SERVICES TO US. END FYI. KISSINGER

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